

State of Alaska FY2004 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Fish and Game Boards of Fisheries and Game Component Budget Summary

Component: Boards of Fisheries and Game

Contact: Diana Cote, Executive Director

Tel: (907) 465-6095 **Fax:** (907) 465-6094 **E-mail:** diana_cote@fishgame.state.ak.us

Component Mission

The Boards Support Section ensures that the public process for the state's regulatory system relating to fish and wildlife resources operates efficiently and effectively.

Component Services Provided

All expenses and activities related to the Board of Fisheries, Board of Game, and Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game and staff support for the regulatory process are included in this component. The Board of Fisheries typically meets five times, plus teleconferences; the Board of Game typically meets three times, plus teleconferences; and the Joint Board can meet up to one time per year. The headquarters office provides direct staff support for the boards, and sets section policies and procedures. Staff coordinate meetings and activities of the boards, process petitions and regulatory changes outside board meetings and deal with the technical functions of correspondence, legal notices, calls for proposals, filing regulations, mailings, fiscal accountability, records retention and retrieval, paralegal research and general assurance of statutory and regulatory processes.

Component Goals and Strategies

GOAL: Provide support to allow for a legal and timely fish and wildlife regulatory process.

STRATEGY: Boards will meet on a regular predetermined schedule. Timely and sufficient background information from the appropriate government agencies, and public input, will be sought and provided to the boards. Increased use of internet for making available timely material to the boards, public, and other agencies will also be a focus of effort to meet this goal.

GOAL: Ensure public participation by allowing adequate review time for proposals and input to the boards.

STRATEGY: Publish proposal booklets in a timely manner and use the website to post information for immediate access by the public. Disseminate information to educate the public, other agencies, and advisory committees on how to be involved in the state's fisheries and game regulatory system.

GOAL: Provide adequate orientation to incoming board members on responsibilities and duties as a state board member.

STRATEGY: Maintain a New Member Orientation Manual for new board members; update the manual as statutes and regulations change; provide a comprehensive orientation session involving senior department staff upon appointment.

Key Component Issues for FY2003 – 2004

Federal subsistence management continues to be a key issue for both the Boards of Fisheries and Game. As the federal agencies implement subsistence management, the section has experienced an increased workload in designing a system within which state boards and the federal board may interact, responding to information requests from federal agencies, from state advisory committees, and from the public. We anticipate a continued increase in regulatory coordination issues for the boards during the 2003/2004 meeting cycle.

The Board of Fisheries has traditionally held meetings at the fishing grounds whenever possible, to give opportunity for input to those whose livelihoods are dependent upon the board's decisions. The Board of Game also meets in both rural and urban areas of the state to give opportunity for input from all citizens of the state. Both boards rely heavily on local public participation, and without it the decisions made by the boards may not be as sound and beneficial to Alaskans.

At the request of the BOF, the department developed and presented a report "Marine Protected Areas in Alaska: Recommendations for a Public Process" to the Board of Fisheries Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Committee in October, 2002, along with a summary of public comments received on the document. The report's recommendations cover 1) definitions and goals, 2) adoption of a policy, 3) a stakeholder process, 4) benefits to fisheries, 5) design criteria, and 6)

close coordination between federal and state MPA processes. The MPA Committee and the full board determined to develop, with the assistance of a public panel, an MPA Policy. The Board will use the policy as the basis for future consideration of marine habitat protections that are within their authority.

The Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game have not met during the prior four years due to the workloads of the individual boards and budget deficits. A joint task force was formed in FY02 to identify and prioritize discussion items for a joint board meeting in FY04. The task force focused on recommendations concerning the state's advisory committee system. The advisory committee system has not undergone a thorough review since its inception thirty years ago.

In addition, the joint boards have the responsibility to be involved in the selection of the commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game. Alaska Statute 44.39.030, Appointment of Commissioner, provides that the governor shall appoint the commissioner from a list of qualified persons nominated by the Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game meeting in joint session. Accordingly, the joint boards have met via teleconference on this issue.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2002

The Board of Fisheries continued to implement the statewide Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy through evaluation of proposals in the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik areas. This significant policy aims to evaluate and rebuild the state's salmon stocks, and continues to shape overall salmon fisheries management.

The Board of Fisheries created a salmon fisheries cooperative in the Chignik Area. This regulation creates a purse seine sockeye salmon fisheries cooperative among CFEC permit holders. The co-op was allocated a percentage of the annual Chignik area sockeye salmon harvestable surplus. The board will consider proposals for changes to this fishery each year for the following three years in order to monitor the effects of the salmon co-op.

The Board of Game continued monitoring, with the department, in oversight of the unit 19-D East Wildlife Management team's work on developing an adaptive management plan to rebuild moose populations in this area. This is an ongoing effort, that will continue into the next fiscal year.

The Board of Game conducted a major review of the state's falconry regulations. These regulations assist in the management of raptor populations and maintain standards for the care of birds legally held for falconry purposes. This review involved the department and the professional falconers throughout the state, and resulted in the publication of a new issue of the Falconry Manual.

Both boards met within the schedules provided.

Board information was posted on the section's website within four working days for access by advisory committee members and the general public.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 16.05.220-258
AS 16.05.260
AS 44.62
AAC Title 5
Public Law 96-487

Boards of Fisheries and Game
Component Financial Summary

All dollars in thousands

	FY2002 Actuals	FY2003 Authorized	FY2004 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	327.6	422.5	424.3
72000 Travel	291.9	433.6	284.5
73000 Contractual	254.8	344.0	307.9
74000 Supplies	17.1	66.5	41.5
75000 Equipment	37.7	0.0	0.0
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	929.1	1,266.6	1,058.2
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	13.2	337.5	162.5
1004 General Fund Receipts	746.0	759.2	725.8
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	169.9	169.9	169.9
Funding Totals	929.1	1,266.6	1,058.2

Boards of Fisheries and Game

Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2004

The Boards of Fisheries and Game component will reduce its general funds by \$35.2. This reduction will be accomplished by reducing the number of proposal books that are printed and mailed, subsequently relying more on use of our web page for access to the proposals by the public, advisory committees, department staff and other agencies. A limited number of printed copies of the proposal book will be made available at department offices, libraries, and other locations throughout the state. In addition, the total number of meeting days for both the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game will be reduced.

Summary of Component Budget Changes

From FY2003 Authorized to FY2004 Governor

All dollars in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2003 Authorized	759.2	337.5	169.9	1,266.6
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Transfer of Fed Rcpts to Administrative Services to fund excess indirect receipts ADN 11-3-0187	0.0	-100.0	0.0	-100.0
-Transfer of Fed Rcpts to Advisory Committees	0.0	-75.0	0.0	-75.0
-\$75 per Month Health Insurance Increase for Non-covered Staff	1.8	0.0	0.0	1.8
Proposed budget decreases:				
-Decrement General Fund	-35.2	0.0	0.0	-35.2
FY2004 Governor	725.8	162.5	169.9	1,058.2

Boards of Fisheries and Game

Personal Services Information

	Authorized Positions		Personal Services Costs	
	<u>FY2003</u> <u>Authorized</u>	<u>FY2004</u> <u>Governor</u>		
Full-time	6	6	Annual Salaries	315,691
Part-time	1	1	Premium Pay	1,101
Nonpermanent	0	0	Annual Benefits	120,482
			<i>Less 2.97% Vacancy Factor</i>	(12,974)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	7	7	Total Personal Services	424,300

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Administrative Assistant	0	0	1	0	1
Administrative Clerk III	0	0	1	0	1
Exec Dir I, Brds Fish & Game	0	0	1	0	1
Exec Dir II, Brds Fish & Game	0	0	1	0	1
Project Coord	0	0	1	0	1
Publications Tech II	0	0	2	0	2
Totals	0	0	7	0	7